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WEST GERMAN REACTION TO CUBA

REVIEW OF WEST GERMAN PRESS AND RADIO 22-24 APRIL 61 G

THERE IS CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE AND COMMENT ON CUBAN EVENTS IN THE WEST GERMAN PRESS AND RADIO OVER THE WEEKEND. AMONG THE HEADLINES IN 24 APRIL NEWSPAPERS ARE THE FOLLOWING: "ALLEN DULLES TO QUIT?" "KENNEDY THE VICTIM OF WRONG INFORMATION", AND "DID KENNEDY ACT AGAINST DEAN RUSK'S ADVICE?" WEEKEND PAPERS PROMINENTLY REPORT CRITICISM OF KENNEDY IN THE FOLLOWING HEADLINES: "U.S. CRITIZED--WORLD'S CONFIDENCE IN KENNEDY DISAPPOINTED--ALLEN DULLES' SECRET SERVICE FAILED ON CUBA" IN NUERNBERGER NACHRICHTEN, PRO-OPPOSITION, AND "FIRST WESTERN CRITICISM OF KENNEDY--ILL FEELINGS ABOUT CUBAN AFFAIR" IN BUGR NACHRICHTEN, DORTMUND, PRO-GOVERNMENT.

REINHARD GERDES, IN A REPORT OVER MAINZ RADIO, MAINTAINS THAT IN VIEW OF THE U.S. LOSS OF PRESTIGE IN THE CUBAN CRISIS PRESIDENT KENNEDY COULD NOT PERHAPS HAVE ACTED DIFFERENTLY IN THE FACE OF EVENTS. HOWEVER, GERDES SURMISES, THE QUESTION ARISES WHETHER THE INITIAL MISTAKE--THE TRAINING OF CUBAN EXILE TROOPS ON U.S. TERRITORY--WAS NOT FOLLOWED BY A SECOND--THE HARSH CRITICISM OF THE ATTITUDE OF LATIN AMERICAN STATES WHICH WILL CERTAINLY NOT INCREASE SYMPATHY FOR WASHINGTON IN THESE COUNTRIES.

THILO KOCH, IN A REPORT OVER HAMBURG RADIO, EMPHASIZES THE "VERY DETERMINED, SERIOUS, AND SHARP STATEMENTS" BY PRESIDENT KENNEDY, WHO "HAS HAD HIS DARKEST HOUR SINCE HE WAS ELECTED" "BUT IS NOT A MAN TO GIVE UP OR REACT IN AN UNCONTROLLED MANNER."